

Earthquake Recovery Update

As of October 17, 2006 (5:00 p.m.)

UTILITIES

Electricity, phone, Internet and cable television service has been restored statewide. Customers who experience service disruptions should contact their service providers.

AIRPORTS

All state commercial airports are fully powered and operational. Passengers are advised to confirm their reservations with their respective airline before arriving at the airport.

HIGHWAYS

Two highway inspection teams arrived yesterday on the Big Island to inspect state roads and bridges for potential earthquake damage.

- Route 19 near 35 mile marker. One lane of the highway is has reopened. The emergency detour route is now closed. A portable traffic light was installed to help control traffic.
- Route 270 (Akoni Pule Hwy.) near 5 mile marker. Damage to Honokoa Bridge. One lane of the road is open for contraflow traffic at this time.
- Route 270 near 26 mile marker leading to Pololu Valley. Rock slides and cracks in road. One lane open to local traffic only.

HARBORS

Kawaihae Harbor on the Big Island is open for commercial operations after the facility was damaged by Sunday's earthquake.

Shipping companies are allowed to load and unload cargo at Kawaihae Harbor's Pier 2B after engineers said the pier was structurally sound. Inspectors are still assessing damage to harbor piers 1 and 2A.

SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The following schools on the Big Island will remain closed on Wednesday, October 18.

- Honokaa Elementary
- Waikoloa Elementary

All University of Hawai'i campuses are open.

HOSPITALS

Kona Community Hospital's emergency room is open. Due to interior damage, all patients have been moved to other facilities.

Maui Memorial Hospital sustained some damage but remains open.

All other state and private hospitals statewide are open.

WATER / IRRIGATION

- About 80 Hawaiian homesteads in Kawaihae are without water due to problems with irrigation.
- Farmers and residents in Waimea and Kohala have been asked to conserve water as Department of Agriculture crews assess blocks in irrigation systems.

STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

The following state parks and hiking trails on the Big Island are closed due to safety reasons and to facilitate further inspections.

- Muliwai trail (Hamakua)
- Ala Kahakai coastal trail, Puakea Bay segment (Kona)
- Pololu Valley trail (North Kohala)
- Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area (1 pavilion closed, cabin #3 closed)
- Kealahou Bay State Historic Park (private road closed to Kaawaloa peninsula, Cook monument, Napoopoo landing closed to marine craft)
- Kealahou Bay marine life conservation district (waters of the bay closed due to landslide)

CULTURAL SITES

The following cultural sites on the Big Island are closed while State Historic Preservation teams continue to assess damage.

- Kamehameha Birth Site
- Mookini Heiau
- Hulihee Palace
- Kuakini wall

STATE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

All state offices and facilities are open, with no reports of major damage. Assessments of buildings and facilities on the neighbor islands is continuing.

HOTELS AND RESORTS

All hotels and resorts in Hawai'i are open and operating. Some hotels and resorts in the Kona-Kohala area of the Big Island sustained some damage, but they are open and honoring reservations.

TAX ASSISTANCE

The state Department of Taxation has announced steps to assist residents and businesses who may have difficulty meeting their tax obligations as a result of temporary loss of electrical power, property damage or personal injury.

The department will consider requests for extensions to file and pay taxes and waivers of penalties and interest on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the department will follow federal casualty loss provisions as allowable under the President's declaration of a major disaster.

In addition, under a State Disaster Proclamation issued by Governor Linda Lingle taxpayers may be eligible for a general excise tax exemption if they receive payments from property and casualty insurance policies for damage or loss of inventory used in a trade or business.

Tax forms and information are available on the department's Web site at www.hawaii.gov/tax or by calling (808) 587-7572, or toll-free from the neighbor islands and continental United States at (800) 222-7572. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.